

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant submits an Information Disclosure Statement by enclosing form PTO-892 wherein a list of prior art disclosed in the specification has been recorded.

Applicant also submits proposed replacement drawing page 2 to show every feature of the invention specified in amended claim 3, including a tailgate bracket.

Applicant affirms the election without traverse to prosecute the species shown in FIGS. 3, 7 and 10 in claim 3.

With regard to the objection to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter, Applicant has amended the claim to include the elements as described in the specification and has amended the specification to include a tailgate bracket.

Applicant has reviewed and considered the claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention and has rewritten claim 3 to overcome such objection. Namely, Applicant has removed the terms "tailgate-bracket member", "tailgate-bracket appendages", "bottom extensions" and "mirror bracket".

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant believes the examiner will now find this patent application in a position for allowance and its expeditious passage to same is respectfully requested.

Should the examiner disagree or have any questions, comments or suggestions that will render this application allowable, a call to the undersigned attorney of record is invited.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Q. Teague, Applicant

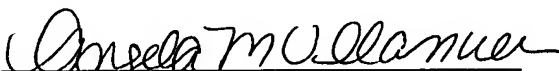
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above Response and Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service by first class mail on the 10th day of June, 2004, addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Legal Assistant